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 THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

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In the course of a conversation at a reception on June 12, I asked [redacted] what he thought on the present situation in Albania. The Minister launched into a rather long discourse in reply.

He said that he is certain 80 or 90 percent of the population of Albania oppose the present government. Before they will take active steps for change, however, it will be necessary that they have a clear and more desirable alternative to the present government. The National Committee now in Italy is composed of "feudal" personalities who collaborated with the Italians. The Albanian people will certainly not get rid of their present government in order to bring in such a crew. The same applies to King Zog. In order to crystallize their opposition to the present regime the Albanian people would need the prospect of a successor government which would be truly democratic. On the other hand, any alternative to the present government must be such as to assure the Albanian people their integrity and independence. The Albanians are intensely nationalistic and have fought for their liberties through a long period of history. Any solution of the Albanian problem must satisfy this feeling of nationalism.

In response to my suggestion that, [redacted]

[redacted] it might create a dangerous international situation if there should be an open revolt in Albania at this time, [redacted] agreed heartily. He said that a violent overthrow of the Albanian Government at this time might well give the Soviets the pretext they may be seeking for armed intervention in the Balkans.

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Athens 1931 June 15, 1951

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Charles W. Yost
Minister-Counselor of Embassy

cc Belgrade
Rome
Salonika
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